

Dallas Detectives Arrest Smith on New

By DAVID DUNNIGAN

Dallas detectives arrested a former anti-Castro Cuban exile leader about noon Monday on a warrant from New Orleans Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison.

The burglary and theft detectives said Sergio Vicente Arcacha Smith, 44, seemed to be waiting on them. The warrant said Smith, David Ferrie and Gordon Novel worked together in a burglary attempt.

Ferrie died of natural causes Feb. 28, said a New Orleans coroner. But Garrison still says it was suicide and the dead pilot figured into his Kennedy assassination "plot." Novel was arrested Saturday in Columbus, Ohio.

AFTER HE WAS released from Dallas County jail on \$1,500 bond, Smith told a press conference at his attorney's office that he had been available to talk with Garrison about the Kennedy assassination plot investigation three different times.

"Since he refused to talk to me with my attorney present, I am going to fight extradition to the State of Louisiana," Smith said.

He declined to comment on charges in the warrant.

Garrison's office had telephoned Dallas police Friday, telling them of the warrant. But police told them written confirmation was necessary. Dallas police got it Saturday, had it verified in a Dallas County court Monday morning and went to Smith's home at 9915 Donegal in Northwest Dallas.

DALLAS OFFICERS admitted Smith's arrest, picture-taking and fingerprinting were rushed up "to avoid an incident." Detectives Wayne B. Posey and Charles Leathers said it took them two hours to finish their work.

The neatly dressed Smith "acted like a gentleman," they said. They took him to the Dallas County jail after he had been warned of his rights by city magistrate Greer Dowell.

His attorney, Frank R. Hernandez, was waiting on him at the courthouse office.

Some of Garrison's investigators had tried to question the former career diplomat under Batista's regime but he would not talk except in the presence of Dallas

police or his attorney.

Dallas Assistant Dist. Atty. Bill Alexander had advised Smith he did not have to return to New Orleans unless subpoenaed.

SMITH, WHO HAS lived in Dallas since 1963 and works with the export division of an air-conditioning firm, told a news conference Feb. 27 he knew nothing of a plot. He reportedly told his arresting officers, "Garrison hasn't got anything."

He has admitted knowing Ferrie but insists he knows of "nothing pertinent I could tell the New Orleans people."

"I want to make it clearly understood that any activities I participated in while in New Orleans had absolutely nothing to do with any plot to assassinate President Kennedy," Smith said.

He claimed he was the first to call Garrison "a fraud."

"I now will fight Mr. Garrison until he is completely destroyed. I think he is a threat to this country," Smith said.

Garrison's warrant alleges the trio conspired to burglarize a munitions bunker in Houma, La., about 40 miles southwest

Orleans Warrant

of New Orleans, in 1961. He did not mention the accusation to arresting officers, they said. The state charge said they were trying to get munitions from Schulenberg Well Services Inc.

New Orleans Criminal Dist. Court Judge Thomas Brahney set bond at \$5,000 for each, but Justice of the Peace Charlie T. Davis of Dallas set it at \$1,500.

"IT IS A SHAME that in this country they can do this to honest people," Smith said last week after learning of the coming warrant.

Smith, a father of five, left Cuba shortly after Fidel Castro came to power and first settled in Miami, Fla. He said he then lived in New Orleans, Miami again, Houston and then Dallas.

He was chief of Cuban revolutionary activities in the New Orleans area before the Bay of Pigs invasion in 1961. He collected money and coordinated the training of Cuban revolutionaries in the invasion.

New Orleans newspapers have said Ferrie was in the same work.

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Pix Caption:
IN EXPORT
DIVISION OF
AIR CONDITION-
ING FIRM

REFUGEEES
preparing to
take part in
the invasion.